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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 000097

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TAGS: PREL PTER PGOV MASS ID  
SUBJECT: YUDHOYONO ASKS FOR U.S. HELP

¶11. (U) CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE STEPHEN D. MULL FOR REASON 1.5(D).

¶12. (C) SUMMARY. COORDINATING MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS YUDHOYONO TOLD CHARGE JANUARY 9 THAT THE GOI NOW HAS POLITICAL SPACE TO ACT FIRMLY AGAINST RADICAL GROUPS. YUDHOYONO ASKED THAT THE U.S. HELP IMPROVE THE ANTI-TERRORISM CAPABILITIES OF THE INDONESIAN MILITARY. CHARGE REPLIED THAT NEW U.S. LEGISLATION MIGHT ALLOW ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING FOR COUNTRIES LIKE INDONESIA. YUDHOYONO SAID HE HOPED THAT MILITARY TIES WOULD GENERALLY IMPROVE AND THAT THE IMMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL WOULD SATISFY LEAHY AMENDMENT CONCERN OVER ACCOUNTABILITY. YUDHOYONO SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF REMARKS BY DEPUTY SECRETARY WOLFOWITZ THAT INDONESIA MIGHT BE ONE OF THE NEXT THEATERS OF ACTION AGAINST AL-QAEDA; CHARGE STRESSED THAT U.S. IS NOT CONTEMPLATING UNILATERAL MILITARY ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS IN INDONESIA. YUDHOYONO'S REMARKS REVEALED THAT THE GOI'S PLANS FOR ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS AIM PRIMARILY AT SEPARATISM IN ACEH AND PAPUA AND INTERCOMMUNAL CONFLICT IN SULAWESI AND THE MOLUCCAS. END SUMMARY.

¶13. (U) CHARGE MET JANUARY 9 WITH COORDINATING MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, AT YUDHOYONO'S REQUEST, TO DISCUSS ANTI-TERRORISM ISSUES.

POLITICAL SPACE TO ACT FIRMLY

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¶14. (C) YUDHOYONO SAID THAT "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" AND "THE TIME HAS COME TO ACT FIRMLY" AGAINST MUSLIM EXTREMISTS AND OTHERS WHO ENGAGE IN TERRORISM OR THREATEN PUBLIC ORDER. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID HAD TAKE A TOUGH LINE AGAINST INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN SULAWESI. THE POLICE AND MILITARY HAVE DEPLOYED FIVE BATTALIONS TO CENTRAL SULAWESI AND HAVE BEGUN DISARMING AND EVENTUALLY "REPATRIATING" OUTSIDE EXTREMISTS LIKE LASKAR JIHAD. YUDHOYONO PLANS A TRIP TO AMBON, MALUKU NEXT WEEK TO HELP ADDRESS INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS THERE AS WELL.

¶15. (C) YUDHOYONO, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A ONE-DAY TRIP TO SINGAPORE, SAID SENIOR SINGAPOREAN OFFICIALS WERE APPALLED BY INDONESIAN MUSLIM LEADERS' CALLING ON THE GOI TO REFRAIN FROM MOVING AGAINST LOCAL MILITANTS LINKED TO THE TERRORISTS RECENTLY ARRESTED IN SINGAPORE. YUDHOYONO HAD REASSURED DPM TONY TAN AND SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW THAT SUCH REMARKS DID NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF MOST INDONESIANS OR EVEN MOST INDONESIAN MUSLIMS. YUDHOYONO SAID THAT SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM EXTREMISTS HAS IN FACT WEAKENED GREATLY IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS SINCE IT PEAKED WHEN U.S.-LED MILITARY ACTION COMMENCED IN AFGHANISTAN. YUDHOYONO BELIEVES THAT THE GOI NOW HAS THE POLITICAL SPACE TO ACT AGAINST MUSLIM EXTREMISTS. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT MEGAWATI, VICE PRESIDENT HAMZAH HAZ, AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS WILL NOW SUPPORT TOUGH MEASURES AGAINST ANYONE, INCLUDING RADICAL MUSLIMS, WHO THREATENS PUBLIC ORDER.

U.S. ASSISTANCE

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¶16. (C) YUDHOYONO SAID THAT LAST WEEK HE HAD CHAIRED AN INTERAGENCY MEETING TO REVIEW THE CAPABILITIES OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY TO ACT AGAINST INTERNAL SECURITY THREATS AND TERRORISTS. HE SAID THE MILITARY CANNOT CURRENTLY ADDRESS ADEQUATELY INTERNAL THREATS FROM "TERRORISTS" IN POSO, AMBON,

AND ACEH. HE SAID THAT, FOR ITS PART, THE GOI NEEDS TO "PROPERLY ALLOCATE" RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THE REAL NEEDS OF THE MILITARY. YUDHOYONO SAID THAT HE ALSO PLANS TO ASK FOR "CONCRETE SUPPORT" FROM THE U.S. THOUGH HE PREVIEWED HIS PLANS FOR US, HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS STILL AWAITING APPROVAL FROM PRESIDENT MEGAWATI AND VICE PRESIDENT HAMZAH HAZ BEFORE MAKING A FORMAL APPROACH. YUDHOYONO DID NOT DISCUSS SPECIFICS EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT THE INDONESIAN MILITARY FACED SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF "MOBILITY." (ON THE MARGINS OF THE MEETING, YUDHOYONO'S DEPUTY MENTIONED HELICOPTERS AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.)

NEW LEGISLATION

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¶7. (C) IN RESPONSE TO YUDHOYONO'S FEELER, THE CHARGE NOTED THAT RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION AUTHORIZES THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN MILITARIES FOR ANTI-TERRORISM THAT MIGHT BE A SOURCE OF HELP FOR INDONESIA. WITHOUT GETTING INTO DETAILS, THE CHARGE SAID THAT ANY ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO INDONESIA WOULD PROBABLY BE USED FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN EQUIPMENT. THE CHARGE ALSO NOTED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAD REPEALED THE PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL SALES OF NON-LETHAL MILITARY ITEMS, BROADLY UNDERSTOOD. WE COULD NOT PROVIDE FINANCING OR CREDIT FOR THESE COMMERCIAL PURCHASES, HOWEVER. WE HAD ALREADY OFFERED SEVERAL TIMES TO REVIEW AN INDONESIAN WISH LIST IN ADVANCE AND INDICATE WHAT SPECIFIC ITEMS WE WOULD BE WILLING TO AUTHORIZE FOR COMMERCIAL SALE.

BETTER MILITARY TIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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¶8. (C) YUDHOYONO SAID THAT HE HOPED FOR GENERALLY BETTER MILITARY-MILITARY TIES. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY EXACTLY WHAT THE U.S. HOPED TO ACHIEVE BY LIMITING MILITARY TIES. INDONESIA, YUDHOYONO SAID, NEEDED A ROBUST MILITARY TO SOLVE FUNDAMENTAL THREATS TO SOVEREIGNTY IN IRIAN JAYA AND ACEH, AS WELL AS INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL SULAWESI AND THE MOLUCCAS. WITHOUT A CAPABLE MILITARY, INDONESIA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COMBAT TERRORISM EFFECTIVELY AND WOULD FACE A FUNDAMENTAL THREAT TO ITS NATIONAL INTEGRITY. THE CHARGE REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD YUDHOYONO'S FRUSTRATION AND SAID THAT THE U.S. WANTED TO COOPERATE WITH A FRIENDLY MILITARY THAT RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS AND WAS ACCOUNTABLE FOR ABUSES. THOUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM MIGHT NOT BE ALL THAT YUDHOYONO HOPED FOR, IT WAS A GOOD START. YUDHOYONO HOPED THE CONVENING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL "NEXT MONTH" WOULD ADDRESS U.S. CONCERNs OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY. (NOTE: THE CONVENING OF THE TRIBUNAL IS PUBLICLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 15, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY RUMORS OF A POSTPONEMENT. END NOTE.) HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT IMPLEMENTING ACCOUNTABILITY WOULD TAKE TIME.

WOLFOWITZ REMARKS

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¶9. (C) YUDHOYONO ASKED THE CHARGE FOR CLARIFICATION OF REPORTED REMARKS BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WOLFOWITZ THAT INDONESIA MAY BECOME ONE OF THE NEXT THEATERS OF ACTIONS AGAINST AL-QAEDA. HE SAID "YOU DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO ME, BUT I NEED TO EXPLAIN TO PRESIDENT MEGAWATI AND TO PARLIAMENT." UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH REMARKS, WHICH YUDHOYONO SAID HE PERSONALLY UNDERSTOOD IN THE PROPER CONTEXT, ARE EASILY DISTORTED BY ISLAMIST CRITICS INTO ACCUSATIONS THAT THE U.S. PLANS TO ATTACK INDONESIA. THE CHARGE REPLIED THAT WOLFOWITZ'S PUBLIC REMARKS HAVE BEEN NEARLY IDENTICAL TO OUR PRIVATE MESSAGE TO THE GOI. WE HAVE NATURAL CONCERNs THAT INDONESIA, AS A LARGE, OPEN COUNTRY, COULD BE VULNERABLE TO INFILTRATION BY AL-QAEDA OR OTHER TERRORISTS. WE WANT TO WORK WITH THE GOI TO ADDRESS THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM, BUT WE HAVE NO PLANS FOR UNILATERAL MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST INDONESIA. TOO OFTEN, THE CHARGE SAID, THE PRESS DISTORTED OUR CONSISTENT MESSAGE.

COMMENT: WHAT'S THE REAL TARGET?

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**¶10. (C) INDONESIA DOES FACE SERIOUS LOGISTICS CHALLENGES THAT IMPEDE EFFECTIVE EFFORTS TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERROR. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THE INTERNATIONAL THREAT IS THE GOI'S PRIMARY CONCERN-EVEN IN THE WAKE OF RECENT ARRESTS IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. YUDHOYONO'S REMARKS MADE CLEAR THAT THE GOI'S CONCEPTION OF THE TERRORIST THREAT DIFFERS FROM THE U.S. CONCERN WITH INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS LIKE AL-QAEDA. YUDHOYONO BARELY MENTIONED INTERNATIONAL OR FOREIGN TERRORISM, RESERVING HIS REMARKS MAINLY FOR SEPARATISTS IN ACEH AND IRIAN JAYA AND THOSE WHO PROVOKE INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN SULAWESI AND THE MOLUCCAS.**

MULL